

**Amendments to the Claims**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A printing method comprising the steps of:  
transporting ~~one of~~ a recording medium and an intermediate transfer medium sheet to an image forming position on a first transport path,  
forming an image ~~selectively~~ on ~~one of~~ the recording medium and the intermediate transfer medium sheet at the image forming position on the first transport path,  
transporting the recording medium to an image transfer position on a second transport path disposed separately from the first transport path, and  
transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer medium sheet to the recording medium at the image transfer position on the second transport path, wherein said step of forming the image on the intermediate transfer medium sheet is prohibited when the step of forming the image on the recording medium is performed.
2. (currently amended) A printing method according to claim 1, wherein when a mode of forming the image ~~to~~ on the recording medium is set, the image is not formed on the intermediate transfer medium sheet.
3. (currently amended) A printing apparatus method according to claim 1, wherein when the image is formed on the recording medium, the intermediate transfer medium sheet is moved from the image forming position.
4. (currently amended) A printing method according to claim 3, wherein when a mode for setting forming the image on the recording medium is set, the intermediate transfer medium sheet is removed from the image forming position.

5. (new) A printing method according to claim 3, wherein when the image is formed on the recording medium, the intermediate transfer sheet is retracted to a retracted position away from the first transport path where the image forming position is set.

6. (new) A printing method according to claim 4, wherein when a mode for forming the image on the recording medium is set, the intermediate transfer sheet is retracted to a retracted position away from the first transport path where the image forming position is set.

7. (new) A printing method according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate transfer sheet is a continuous film extending from the image forming position to the image transfer position.